

support despotic governments. The publication of the articles, which were written on the occasion of recent demonstrations in favor of the Franco-Russian alliance, was interdicted in Russia, although they appeared in the Russian language. Count Tolstoi's utterances, while to some they may seem surcharged with his own peculiar views of Christian anarchism, nevertheless contain matter which may be taken to heart by all nations. The series will begin immediately. The same journal announces a rare novelette by Richard Wagner, where the great composer clothes his philosophy of music in the vestments of romance, and later a translation of the famous portraiture of Luther by Gustav Freytag. (Yearly, \$1.00 The Open Court Publishing Co. : Chicago and London.)

Selections.

CREOLIN.—This popular antiseptic agent has been generally accorded entire freedom from toxic effects, but, in the light of some recent experiments upon lower animals, this superiority must be called in question. Professor Hobday, of the Royal Veterinary College, England, reports in the *Lancet* that two ferrets subjected to applications of the drug, diluted with water in the proportion of two ounces to a quart, died in half an hour. Subsequent investigation proved it to be an irritant and narcotic poison to both dogs and cats, especially when applied over a considerable area of the body. Such a report emphatically suggests caution in treating extensive wounds upon the human body with creolin as a dressing.—*Medical News*.

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PAYMENT OF PHYSICIANS.—What fools these mortals be ! In no profession aside from medicine is it the custom not to expect prompt payment for services rendered, and yet how many professional men infuse even an iota of business methods in the collection of their accounts ? Because, forsooth, certain professional men, born with gold spoons in their mouths and therefore not obliged to give thought to the morrow, have set the custom of rendering quarterly, half-yearly, or even yearly accounts, the rest seem to follow like so many sheep, for fear of antagonizing patients. All this is wrong and inconsistent with those business methods which are at the bottom of successful bread-making. Only the man with ample capital can afford to wait six months for payment of accounts.—*American Medical Surgical Bulletin*.